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**Federal Communications Commission
445 Twelfth Street SW
Washington, DC 20554**

Honorable Julius Genachowski, Chairman
Commissioner Michael J. Copps
Commissioner Robert M. McDowell
Commissioner Mignon Clyburn
Commissioner Meredith Attwell Baker

MAY 13 REC'D

Distribution Center

Re: CG Docket Nos. 03-123 and 10-51

Dear Chairman Genachowski and Commissioners Copps, McDowell, Clyburn, and Baker,

I am a deaf person who uses Video Relay Service over broadband to communicate in American Sign Language, my primary language. For those of us who are deaf, VRS is a life-altering broadband service that is a vital link to the hearing community.

Ensuring that deaf individuals have access to VRS and encouraging improvements in VRS should be a high priority for you as Chairman and Commissioners of the Federal Communications Commission. The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) requires the FCC to make available to all deaf individuals nationwide "functionally equivalent" communications.

You will soon determine the future of VRS. When you set the VRS rate, you will determine whether America makes progress toward the statutory goals of functional equivalence, nationwide access, and inclusion – or force deaf users to revert to TTY communications. And, you will determine whether VRS fulfills its potential to drive broadband adoption by the deaf, even in the face of disproportionate poverty, disenfranchisement, and isolation.

I was deeply disturbed to see the Commission's recent Public Notice on VRS rates. These proposals will push VRS providers into bankruptcy and mean an end to VRS.

You should be increasing the availability and use of VRS, not cutting back. You should adopt a rate that encourages continuing improvements in VRS technology. Recent developments in VRS are a good example of how the service can be improved, such as enhanced 911 services, 10-digit numbering, a larger and better trained pool of interpreters, and better videophones with an array of enhanced features. Monthly payments for broadband are a big expense for many deaf people, and instead of trying to cut back on VRS, you should be exploring ways to make VRS over broadband more affordable to deaf individuals.

Progress toward functional equivalence will be destroyed if the FCC does not encourage VRS providers to improve VRS and make it more widely available. VRS is a recent and

dramatic advancement that benefits those who are deaf, but so much more can be done. It would be tragic if the FCC were to destroy this broadband service that is so vital to the deaf.

I urge you to establish a fair and predictable rate for VRS that will encourage VRS providers to invest in improving VRS and reaching more deaf individuals. The law requires it and it is the right thing to do.

Sincerely,

Signature James R Higby Date May 8-2010

James Higby
8470 Currey Rd
Dixon, CA 95620
jameshigby@att.net

Received & inspected

Honorable Julius Genachowski, Chairman
Commissioner Michael J. Copps
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MAY 19 2010
FCC Mail Room

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Sincerely,

Signature Betty J. Hollrah Date 5-8-10

Name Betty J. Hollrah

Address 1645 ROSEWALL DR.

City ST. CHARLES State MISSOURI ZIP 63303

Email Bettyjan9889@ATT.NET

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Sincerely,

Signature

Peggy McLaughlin

Date

5-10-10

Name

Peggy McLaughlin

Address

1347 Kyle Ave

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State

MO

ZIP

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Signature



Date

5-8-10

Allen Alvord
3029 Valley Vista Dr So
St Peters, MO 63376
agalvord@sbcglobal.net

03-123, 10-51

The attached document is part of a mass mailing. The number of identical documents as specified in the File Number/City, St. field have been received by the Commission on this same date. You may view the documents at the FCC Reference Information Center, at 445 12th Street, SW, Washington, DC, Room CY-A257.

146 letters